

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

29 April 1982 Vol 1 No 2

30p

**Play Planet Ruler  
on ZX81**

**Reviews: Snake  
DCP control system  
Vic Super-expander**

**BBC graphics  
Music on Vic**

**Win a 16K RAM  
pack**



**APPLE II****COMMODORE**

# ATLANTIC

## MICRO SYSTEMS

72 Honor Oak Park, London SE23 1DY.  
 Telephone 01-699 2202  
 Telex No.: 896691 TLXIR G "ATLANTIC"

### Atlantic VIC-20 CASH Prices

Vic-20 Computer	£185.95
Vic Cassette	£42.95

### SPECIAL OFFERS

Oki Microline 80 printer (RRP £299.00)	£269.00 + VAT
Ricoh 1600S Daisywheel (RRP £1,600.00) Printer	£1,295.00 + VAT

For further information, give us a call and ask for our trade desk. If you prefer to write, please complete the form below.

Name .....

Address .....

Phone Number .....

Information required on .....

**Buy our****£475 + VAT**

**Daisy Wheel Printer**  
**for your computer**  
**and you have an**  
**\*Electronic**  
**Typewriter**  
**absolutely FREE**



## MICRO GEN QUALITY PRODUCTS

### ZX81 A/D CONVERTER BOARD

This 4-channel analogue to digital converter, originally developed for joystick control, can be used for such applications as measurement of voltage, temperature, light intensity etc.  
 The board fits in between the RAM pack and the ZX81. (No skill is required to make this connection, and it actually improves the stability of the RAM pack.)

Price now only £18.95

### JOYSTICKS FOR THE ZX81, only £9.50 each

- The most exciting add-on ever for the ZX81, free yourself of that dead, unresponsive keyboard.
  - One or two joysticks may be connected via our A/D board.
  - Turns your ZX81 into a true programmable games machine.
  - Extends the capability of the ZX81, imagine the tremendous variety of games and applications that now become possible.
  - Details supplied on how to use the joysticks in your own programs.
- Please note that you cannot connect conventional analogue joysticks directly to the digital input ports found on most I/O boards, an A/D converter such as ours is required.

A free copy of ZX AMAZE plus any one of the games listed below when ordering a Joystick and an A/D board.

#### Programs available

**ZX SPACE INVADERS** You've tried the rest, now try the BEST.

This program has many features including an ever increasing rate of play (they'll get you in the end).

only £3.95

**ZX BREAKOUT** Quite simply the best breakout on the market.  
 Features seven ball angles (you won't find this one easy).

now only £3.95

**ZX NEW YORK** A very addictive game.

Bomb and shoot your way out of trouble, otherwise you are doomed to crash. Generates a different pattern, for a different game each time you play. On the reverse of the cassette is ZX REFLEX, find out how fast you really are.

now only £3.95

**ZX CHESS** The original and still the best • Graphic display of chessboard • Six levels of play • Displays record of your moves and the computers • Board can be set up to any position • Has ability to change sides or level in mid-games • PLUS • CHESS CLOCK on reverse side, records time taken by each player • Resettable function • Single key entry.

now only £6.50

All our games are written in machine code, and can be used with joysticks or keyboard (except chess, keyboard only). Supplied on cassette with library case.

To allow you to prove to yourself that our products are second to none, MICRO GEN offers the following terms to our customers.

### 14 DAYS FREE APPROVAL ON ALL PRODUCTS

All money will be refunded if goods are returned in good condition within 14 days of despatch.  
 If you write a program which is exceptional, please submit it to us. We will offer a royalty if it is suitable. Cheques and PO's payable to MICRO GEN, Dep. P.1, 24 Agar Crescent, Bracknell, Berks.

# POPULAR Computing WEEKLY

## The Team

**Editor**  
Duncan Scot

**Production consultants**  
Myles Hewitt  
Eric Robble

**Editorial Secretary**  
Fiona McCormick

**Advertisement Manager**  
David Lake [01-839 2846]

**Advertisement Executive**  
Peter Chandler [01-839 1881]

**Publishing Director**  
Nick Hampshire

**Popular Computing Weekly**,  
Hobhouse Court,  
19 Whitcomb Street,  
London WC2 7HF  
01-829 6835 and 01-839 1855

Published by Sunshine Publications Ltd,  
Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street,  
London WC2 7HF

Typesetting, origination and printing by  
Chesham Press, Chesham, Bucks.

Distributed by S M Distributors  
London SW9 01-274 7421. Telex: 261643

© Sunshine Publications Ltd 1982

**Subscriptions**  
You can have *Popular Computing Weekly* sent to  
your home: the subscription rate is £19.95 per year,  
for addresses in the UK.

**How to submit articles**  
Articles which are submitted for publication  
should not be more than 2,000 words long.  
If you are writing for a particular section, such  
as Programming, you should try to cover the  
ground in about 1,000 words.

All submissions should be typed and a double  
space should be left between each line.

Programs should, whenever possible, be  
computer printed.

We cannot guarantee to return every submitted  
article. *Popular Computing Weekly* can accept  
no responsibility for any errors in programs we  
publish, although we will always try our best to  
make sure programs work.

## This Week



Cover illustration by Ian Craig

**News** 5  
Speech pack for ZX81, chess  
machines rated.

**Club Reports** 7  
Peter Gerrard reports on user  
groups for the Vic-20.

**Planet Ruler** 10  
How would you rule an alien planet?  
Try this sophisticated ZX81 game,  
by Dave Middleton.

**Reviews** 10  
Snake on ZX81, Vic Super  
Expander, ZX81 control ports.

**Programming** 13  
Using Peek and Poke functions  
on the ZX81

**Open Forum** 16  
ZX81, Vic-20 and BBC programs.

**Peek & Poke** 23  
Your questions answered.

**Languages** 24  
David Kingsbury introduces computer  
languages other than Basic.

**Sound & Vision** 25  
Sam Blythe writes some music.

**Competitions** 26  
Win a 16K Ram pack.

## Editorial

In 18th Century London prices of  
goods in shops were rarely fixed.  
Customers bartered and haggled for  
everything.

Near the end of the century Messrs  
Flint and Palmer opened a shop on  
London Bridge. Every item had a set  
price and the shop assistants refused  
to argue.

At first, it is reported, customers  
hardly knew how to react but the new  
system became very popular.

The booming personal computer  
market could see a change back to  
bartering. It is certainly worth your  
while to shop around. When Clive  
Sinclair launched his 16K memory  
pack the price was £49.95. The  
cheapest of the 16K packs now on the  
market is £35.

Over the next few months we can  
expect to see many new companies  
enter this market and then prices will  
start to tumble. In the meantime Vic-20  
owners will realise that theirs is a  
buyers' market.

If they do not like the prices all they  
have to do is argue. Or wait.

## Next Week



Have you got  
what it takes to be a  
Hell driver? Find out in next  
week's fantastic fast moving issue ...

**ZX81 SOFTWARE**

**£34.95** 16K RAM pack assembled, tested and cased. (Allow 21 days delivery)

**High Resolution**

**special techniques**

**quality**

Music	1K	£2.95
Music	2-16K	£3.95
Nightmare Park	14K	£4.95
High Res. Graphics	16K	£3.95
Space Invaders	1K	£4.95
Space Invaders (128)	3K	£5.95
Breakout	1K	£2.95
Dragon Maze	16K	£4.95
Planetoids	16K	£3.95
Scroll/		
Rolling Riter	1-16K	£2.95
Life	16K	£3.95
Star Trek	16K	£4.95
Mission of the Deep	16K	£5.95
Fruit Machine	16K	£2.95
and Postman	16K	£3.95
Space Rescue	16K	£4.95
Warrior	16K	£3.75
30 "G" & "X"s	16K	£3.75

**Assembly B1** testing 1K £5.95  
**Assembly I3** testing 3K £8.95  
 Res. Ldr/O. testing 1K £1.00

No hardware modifications whatsoever.

S.A.E. for catalogue  
 All programs supplied on cassette with instructions  
 Send remittance with order (Cheque, P.O. Card No.) to:

**MACRONICS**  
 Dept. C.M.  
 26 Spiers Close  
 Kewale  
 Solihull  
 West Midlands B93 9ES

**When adult education becomes child's play!**

**BIG SAVINGS ON SPECIAL PRICE ONLY**

**ATARI 400 £299.95 INC VAT**

Complete with BASIC language cartridge and manual. Available whilst stocks last!

plus **ATARI 410 CASSETTE RECORDER NOW ONLY \$55**

**It's here at last!**  
**B.B.C. Microcomputer Games Pack 1**

for further information send large **S.A.E.**

**MAIN DEALERS FOR ACORN-VIC 20 B.B.C.-ATARI AND SOFTWARE SPECIALISTS**

**BBC GAMES PACK 1 FOR ONLY £10.00**

Suitable for BBC models A & B  
 Games Pack includes:  
 Starways - Blackjack  
 Alien Invasion - Simon Fortune  
 Phone for details  
**ACORN ATOM Packages**

**Computers for All**

72 NORTH STREET, ROMFORD, ESSEX. TEL 0708 60725

**MACRONICS**  
**SANCTARYARD**  
**VISA**

## Will Clive sell out?

By the end of the year Clive Sinclair's company may not be quite such a personal affair as it is at present.

Clive intends to offer 10 per cent of the shares in his fast-growing enterprise for sale to investors on the Stock Exchange. Currently he owns 95 per cent of the shares of Sinclair Research, with a friend of his accounting for the other 5

per cent of the share capital.

Clive has hired Rothschild, the merchant bank — which by the way handled the controversial sale of the state-owned Amersham company to private investors — to take care of his proposed debut on the Stock Exchange.

At present Rothschild is preparing a report on the matter for Clive, after which he

will make a final decision about whether to go ahead.

A spokesman for Sinclair said: 'there's likely to be a share placement of about 10 per cent of the company to fund research and development projects including an electric vehicle without draining off too much money from the computer side of the business.'

## Chess machines give tough opposition

Leading chess computers came up against stiff opposition from humans at the first Silica Chess Computer Symposium, sponsored by Kent-based games specialist, the Silica Shop, and staged at London's Imperial College.

The machines acquitted themselves respectably, but their final ratings were below the manufacturers' claims, according to the organiser, John White.

'As the sophistication of chess computers has increased, it's become increasingly difficult to find out just how strong they really are,' said White.

'The manufacturers base their estimations on contests between computers or limited trials against humans, and it's uncertain how reliable their claims are. The symposium was designed to answer these and related questions.'

The machines tested were

Machine	Won	Drew	Lost	Grading (BCF)
Chess Champion Mk V	4	6	12	124 +/-18
Champion Sensory Challenger	6	2	11	133 +/-22
Great Game Machine (Morpheus)	5	2	12	122 +/-20

Manufacturer's claims range from BCF 145 to above 160.

### How the chess computers fared against the humans

those which the organisers believe to be the strongest currently available — the Great Game Machine from Applied Concepts (with Morpheus, Grunfeld and Capablanca chess cartridges), the Champion Sensory Challenger from Fidelity, and the Chess Champion Mk V from Sci-Sys.

Time settings were made for an average play rate of 2½ minutes per move, with adjudication after 60 moves by the international master, Bob Wade.

Two major teams played the machines — one raised from London and one from Berkeley. A third team was raised

on the spot from volunteers from these two teams and from spectators.

'All the players were surprised and impressed by the strength of play of the machines, which drew many favourable comments,' said White. 'The machines will give hard games against most experienced club players, and will massacre the inexperienced player.'

The table shows the main results of the contest. A full account of the symposium with detailed game scores is available from Silica Shop, 1-4 The Mews, Hatherley Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 4DX.

## Commodore show is biggest yet

Commodore will hold its annual exhibition at the Conard Hotel in Hammer-smith, London, on June 3-5.

Ponderously entitled 'The Third International Commodore Computer Show' — in the old days it was known to one and all simply as the Pet-show — this year's event will be (surprise, surprise) 'the biggest and best Commodore Show yet', according to the organisers.

Commodore expects more than 20,000 visitors, and says that more than 100 exhibitors will display a wide range of hardware and software products to cover applications including specialist business uses, education and communications.

Among the products to be shown by Commodore itself is the forthcoming Ultimax small computer (see our news story in last week's issue of *Popular Computing Weekly*). Hobbyists beware, however. Commodore admits that the emphasis of the show will be on business, because this is where the company sees most of its sales coming from.

A number of specialist seminars will run throughout the show, and guest speakers will include Jim Butterfield, the internationally known authority on the Commodore Pet computer.

## Y ZXers should cum to Brum

Microscene Brum 82 is the name of a one-day exhibition concentrating on the Sinclair ZX world to be held on Saturday September 11 at the Bingley Hall in Birmingham.

The show is being organised by Eric Deeson, well known for his activities with the ZX computer.

Further details are available from: Microscene, 6 Battenhall Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17.

## DCP announce a ZX81 speech pack

The first plug-in speech pack for the ZX81 has been announced by DCP Microdevelopments of Norwich.

Described by DCP as 'a fully enclosed, compact unit which plugs directly into the ZX81', the new pack offers an in-built speaker, volume control and extension earphone/speaker socket, and takes its power from the ZX81.

A word-pack ROM is fitted as standard to give numbers

from zero to over 1 million, the complete alphabet and a number of other words. Up to three more 8K word-pack ROMs can be added to provide a 300 to 400 word vocabulary.

DCP managing director David Palmer said: 'We expect most of our early sales to come from users who want to use speech in games, but the speech is also suitable for more serious applications such

as aiding blind users. The speech output does not sound at all "mechanical" — in fact it is very realistic.'

The DCP Speech Pack is available at £49.95 inc VAT, while the word-pack ROMs cost £11.95 inc VAT. They can be obtained direct from the manufacturer.

The address to write to is: DCP Microdevelopments, 2 Station Close, Longwood, Norwich NR13 4AX.

## From West London's mail order specialists:

**ONLY  
£240**

incl. cassette deck

+ FREE GAME

+ FREE

DELIVERY

# VIC-20

## SPECIAL OFFER

Order the superb VIC-20 and cassette deck at £240 (incl. VAT!) and get a FREE game ("Breakout" or "Stunt Cycle") worth £7.99 - and delivery is free, too!

We stock all VIC-20 software, peripherals, paddles, etc - including the full Stack and Arlon range.

The best microcomputers from leading makers (Apple, Commodore, etc) plus peripherals, printers, software, games, books - and all at low prices! Order today from the mail order specialists - send coupon with cheque or phone your Barclaycard ref. Delivery in 28 days or money-back option.

Please supply 1 VIC-20 & Commodore 64 "Stunt Cycle" (vide which required)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# TWICKENHAM

COMPUTER CENTRE LTD

72 Heath Rd Twickenham Middle TW1 4SW (01-892 7886/01-891 1612)

## From West London's mail order specialists: Latest special offers:

48K Apple £768

12" Green monitor £115

12" Amber Phillips  
monitor £135

Epsom printer £399

## ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT!

# TWICKENHAM

COMPUTER CENTRE LTD

72 Heath Rd Twickenham Middle TW1 4SW (01-892 7886/01-891 1612)



## Ctech Software Simply Megabytes Ahead!

# ATM

**DEFENDER.** You defend the planet against UFO's, fast moving, Hives Graphics, Sound effects, Thrust, Laser Torpedos, climb, descend, superbly detailed. **G4 - 75 £4.00**

**ASTRO BATTLEZONE.** Fastened in the cockpit of your starfighter, you view the 3D graphics of the earth revolving slowly below, warning doors your head up display you suddenly glimpse the enemy hurtling towards you, you turn as them, the horizon rolls over, the engines roar as you climb to the stars. **G4 - 75 £5.00**

**FRUIT MACHINE.** Our version has Hifographics, nudge, collect, reason, gamble and even plays "Oranges and Lemons" when you eat. **G3 - 75 £4.00**

**POLECAT.** Countymade Pacman, you must move your Rabbit through the underground maze, but you are being chased by a polecat so you must run like a rabbit until you've collected all your your carrots growing on the top of the Bunnet. **G4 - 75 £5.00**

**MINIFIELD.** You must steer your way through a perilous minifield without exploding any mines, blasting mines can cause chain reactions. **G3 - 75 £5.00**

**EARLY WARNING.** Atomic Missile Command, destroy the attacking ICBMs using a realistic radar screen and intercept missiles. **G4 - 75 £5.00**

N.B.G. - GRAPHICS T - TEXT

**ANY 3 ONLY £9.00**

Control Technology, 39 Gloucester Rd,  
Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5JG.

All prices include VAT, P&P.

For other Products, see our advert on page 60



## Full Colour and Superb Sound

# VIC-20

SOFTWARE

Our latest VIC 20 package is **VICSOFT 7**  
and includes all of -

**BREAKOUT.** The noisiest and most colourful you've ever seen.

**SQUASH.** Will you make it tournament champion?

**DEATHRACE 2000.** Driving in a crazy mad race you must run-over as many pedestrians as you can!

**SOUNDS.** A sound effects synthesizer program. Everything from helicopters to birds of paradise - many dishes.

**MINORIS.** Your astronaut must avoid the asteroids, very fast graphics!

**MASTERMIND.** See if you can beat a microelectronic mind at the full colour brain test!

**WARLORDS.** Protect your castle from gory invaders!

**VICSOFT 7** costs just **£5.95** and  
that's inclusive.

# Club Reports

Is your club involved in any special projects? Use this page to tell the world about it.

## You get £50 for starting up a User Group!

*Pete Gerrard tells you how to go about setting up a Commodore User Group*

It didn't take too long after the first microcomputers started appearing for the very first User Groups in this country to begin springing up.

These were usually started up by enthusiastic amateurs, who wanted to pool their resources in order to further their own individual knowledge concerning whatever particular micro they owned.

Given time, these User Groups got on to a much firmer footing, and nowadays the most successful of these is probably the Independent PET Users Group, or as they recently renamed themselves, the Independent Commodore Products Users Group.

ICPUG (as we shall call them from now on) have their own chairman, secretary, treasurer and so on, and regularly hold committee meetings in order to determine their future path.

It soon became apparent that running a nationwide set of groups was more than just one body of people could handle, and so ICPUG split up into a number of regional sub-groups. Today there are 20 of these regionals, all coming under the ICPUG umbrella of organisation.

As a point of information, the contact for any queries, offers of help etc, the person to contact is Mrs Eil Pamphlett, at 7 Lower Green, Tewin, Welwyn, Hertfordshire (Tel Welwyn 7325).

### One name for all

The reason for the renaming of the group should be fairly obvious. With the appearance of the Vic-20, Commodore introduced another computer on to the scene, and so the label "Commodore Products" became more logical than "PET". This also allows the User Groups to encompass any future products that appear from the Commodore stable.

It is the Vic side of ICPUG that we'd like to concentrate on here.

What is the purpose of joining, organising, starting, or indeed having



Mike Todd: expert on the Vic-20. He is looking for would-be User Groups.

anything to do with a Vic Users Group?

User Groups exist for many purposes, not least of which is the dissemination of information pooled from many sources.

Secondly User Groups can organise seminars, attend exhibitions and so on, again something that one person alone cannot do.

Thirdly, if, as ICPUG have, you can establish a good working relationship with the manufacturer whose products you're using, you stand a very good chance of being kept abreast of all the latest information regarding that company.

Finally, it is a chance to meet brethren enthusiasts, and find out for yourself what others have already discovered.

So, what are ICPUG doing in terms of the Vic, and how do they hope to proceed in the months to come?

The main man behind the current set-up is Mike Todd, whose name you may have encountered in Vic Computing as the writer of many interesting articles on the Vic 20. In his spare time Mike works for BBC Radio, and could arguably be described as the most knowledgeable man in the UK, on the Vic at present.

It is his role to get the Vic machine rolling, and with that in mind he is

looking for people around the country to begin setting up Vic User Groups.

As stated earlier, there are 20 PET groups at the moment. If you contact Mrs Pamphlett at the address given earlier, she'll be able to tell you where they all are.

Initially, ICPUG would like to see Vic people joining existing PET groups. If the demand is sufficient, these can later disassociate themselves from the PET side of the group, but of course keep in with ICPUG and retain all the benefits which that entails.

The kind of thing that ICPUG are looking for, from people keen on setting up a User Group, is (a) people who can bring in their own software, and more important (b) people who are willing to convert the vast library of PET programs that already exist to work on the Vic.

If enthusiasm isn't enough to convince you, ICPUG are willing to offer up to £50 to cover the initial expenses of setting up a group. This will be necessary to cover mail-outs and the like.

As well as this, ICPUG are in the position to receive a vast amount of information from Commodore, both technical and promotional, and are more than willing to disseminate that to people who go about organising a Vic group.

### Maybe a Vic group

If enough get together on this, it is possible that at some future date an IVUG might appear, with its own committee and so on. However, time alone will tell on this one.

A starting point would be to go to the ICPUG stand at the IPC Computer Fair. This is stand number 761, at the end of a whole row of user group stands, where you'll find people willing to offer you help and advice on how to start the whole ball rolling.

Write to Club Reports, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2 7HF, with details of successes you have had with your club, with ideas for helping clubs along and with any news of special meetings. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Planet

As controller of the mining planet Raith, it is your task to ensure that the mines prosper.

The population of the planet is very small, initially with only 100 resident workers, but with a 1000 robot controlled mines, each man can work 10 mines simultaneously.

During the course of the planetary year you have to decide how many mines are going to be built or sold to outside traders. You will also have to sell stocks of minerals to feed your population.

If you are generous then more people will come to Raith to work but if you are miserly the population will starve and may revolt or assassinate you.

Another problem which occurs are raids from Klingons who attack occasionally either killing your workers or stealing your mineral stocks.

Power obviously corrupts so when you get enough money into the treasury who is going to stop you running off to another planet ...

#### The program

The program itself is very simple consisting mainly of text. The game revolves around the value of four inputs made by the user.

By balancing the input values the program will either branch to line 2000 and start a new year, or it will print out a message governed by the proportion of deaths (3220-3250) occurring during the year.

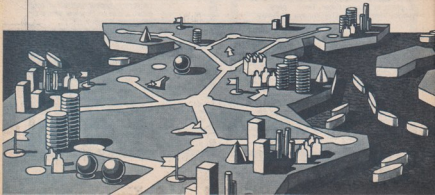
- v the cost of opening a new mine.
- d deaths due to starvation during the year.
- i immigrants arriving during the year.
- l number of mine shafts.
- m tonnes of minerals produced by the mines during the year.
- k tonnes stolen by Klingons.
- n the year.
- p population.
- s mineral stocks.

Game invented by Dave Middleton

```

2000 LET P=100
2010 LET I=5
2020 LET D=0
2030 LET S=2500
2040 LET K=250
2050 LET M=4000
2060 LET L=1000
2070 LET V=1
2080 LET C=4
2090 LET NK=2576
2100 LET T=0
2080 CLS
2010 PRINT "ANNUAL CONTROLLERS REPORT FOR"
2020 PRINT "YEAR "I"
2025 LET NHH=1
2030 PRINT
2040 PRINT "SIR, DURING THE LAST YEAR:"
2050 PRINT
2060 PRINT "B." WORKERS SIED FROM STARVATION"
2070 PRINT "AND "I" IMMIGRANTS "
2080 PRINT "CAME TO RAITH."
2090 IF V=0 THEN GOTO 2200
2100 LET P=INT (P/I)
2110 PRINT
2120 PRINT "THE KLINGONS ATTACKED AND HALF OF THE
PEOPLE ARE DEAD"
2200 PRINT
2210 PRINT "THE POPULATION IS NOW "P"
2220 PRINT "THERE ARE "L" MINE SHAFTS"
2230 PRINT "THE MINES PRODUCED "M" TONNES"
2240 PRINT "OF MINERALS AT "C" TONNE/MINE"
2250 PRINT "BUT KLINGONS PIRATED "K" TONNES"
2260 PRINT "LEAVING "S" TONNES IN STORAGE"
2270 PRINT
2280 PRINT "PRESS C TO CONTINUE"
2290 LET R=DNKEY
2290 IF R=C THEN GOTO 2200
2300 CLS
2310 PRINT "THERE ARE "S" TONNES OF"
2315 PRINT "MINERALS IN STOCK"
2320 LET C=INT RND*10
2330 LET V=V+C*17
2340 PRINT
2350 PRINT "IT CURRENTLY COSTS "
2360 PRINT "V." TONNES "
2365 PRINT "TO OPEN A MINE"
2370 PRINT
2380 PRINT "HOW MANY MINES DO YOU WANT TO"
2390 PRINT "BUILD THIS YEAR?"
2400 INPUT X
2410 LET X=INT ABS X
2420 IF X=0 THEN GOTO 2500
2430 IF V<X THEN GOTO 2480
2440 PRINT "THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH STOCK TO "
2450 PRINT "BUY MATERIALS FOR "
2455 PRINT INT (S/V)*" MINES"

```





# Kuler

```

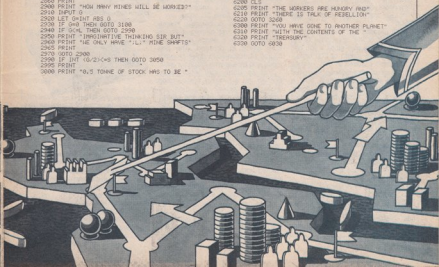
2468 GOTO 2570
2498 LET L=L+X
2485 LET S=S-WX
2500 PAUSE 20
2510 CLS
2515 PRINT "RAITH CURRENTLY HAS"
2516 PRINT L;" MINE SHAFTS"
2517 PRINT
2520 PRINT "HOW MANY MINES WILL YOU SELL?"
2530 INPUT X
2560 LET X=INT ABS X
2570 IF X=0 THEN GOTO 2670
2580 IF X>L THEN GOTO 2640
2590 PRINT "CONTROLLER, YOU ONLY HAVE "L"
2600 PRINT "MINES. TRY SELLING A FEW LESS"
2610 GOTO 2520
2640 LET L=L-X
2650 LET S=S+XW
2660 PAUSE 20
2670 CLS
2675 PRINT "THERE ARE "S;" TONNES OF "
2676 PRINT "MINERALS IN STOCK"
2677 PRINT
2680 PRINT "HOW MUCH STOCK WILL YOU SELL TO"
2690 PRINT "FEED THE WORK FORCE?"
2700 INPUT F
2710 LET F=INT ABS F
2720 IF F<S THEN GOTO 2770
2725 PRINT
2730 PRINT "SUCH GENEROSITY CONSIDERER BUT"
2740 PRINT "THERE ARE ONLY "S;" TONNES OF"
2750 PRINT "MINERALS IN STOCK"
2755 PRINT
2760 GOTO 2680
2770 LET S=S-F
2780 LET D=F-INT (F/20)
2790 LET I=0
2800 IF D<=0 THEN GOTO 2830
2810 LET I=D/2
2820 LET D=D-I
2830 PAUSE 20
2835 CLS
2850 PRINT "RAITH HAS "L;" MINE SHAFTS"
2860 PRINT
2900 PRINT "HOW MANY MINES WILL BE WORKED?"
2910 INPUT G
2920 LET G=INT ABS G
2930 IF G=0 THEN GOTO 3100
2940 IF G>L THEN GOTO 2990
2950 PRINT "IMAGINATIVE THINKING SIR BUT"
2960 PRINT "WE ONLY HAVE "L;" MINE SHAFTS"
2965 PRINT
2970 GOTO 2900
2990 IF INT (G/2)<S THEN GOTO 3050
2995 PRINT
3000 PRINT "0.5 TONNE OF STOCK HAS TO BE "

```

```

3010 PRINT "SOLD TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR"
3020 PRINT "EACH ACTIVE MINE, WE HAVE ENOUGH"
3030 PRINT "STOCK TO OPERATE "INT (S/2);" MINES"
3035 PRINT
3040 GOTO 2900
3050 IF G<10*G THEN GOTO 3100
3055 PRINT
3060 PRINT "CONSIDER, ONE WORKER CAN "
3070 PRINT "SUPERVISE ONLY 10 MINES, WE CAN"
3080 PRINT "ONLY HAVE A MAXIMUM OF "INT (10*G)
3090 PRINT "MINES OPERATING AT PRESENT"
3094 PRINT
3095 GOTO 2900
3100 LET C=INT (RND*5+1)
3110 LET M=0
3115 LET K=0
3120 LET G=RND*5+1
3130 IF INT (G/2)<C/2 THEN GOTO 3150
3140 LET K=INT (S/G)
3150 LET S=S-K*M
3160 LET G=5*RND
3170 LET I=INT (C*(20*L+S)/F/100+1)
3180 LET P=P+1
3190 LET G=INT (F/20)
3200 LET C=INT (10*(3*RND+.3))
3210 IF P<D THEN GOTO 3100
3220 LET D=P-G
3230 IF D<=5*P THEN GOTO 3260
3240 IF D<=5*P THEN GOTO 3100
3250 IF D<=5*P THEN GOTO 3260
3260 LET P=0
3270 IF S<100*P THEN GOTO 3300
3280 GOTO 2000
3300 CLS
3305 PRINT "YOU HAVE BEEN ASSASSINATED"
3310 PAUSE 1000
3315 PRINT
3320 PRINT "WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY AGAIN Y/N"
3330 INPUT A$
3340 IF A$="Y" THEN RUN
3350 GOTO 9999
3360 CLS
3370 GOTO 3260
3380 CLS
3385 PRINT "THE WORKERS ARE HUNGRY AND"
3390 PRINT "THERE IS TALK OF REBELLION"
3395 GOTO 3260
3400 PRINT "YOU HAVE GONE TO ANOTHER PLANET"
3410 PRINT "WITH THE CONTENTS OF THE "
3420 PRINT "TREASURY"
3430 GOTO 3030

```



# Reviews

## software

### **Snake**

*Deltasoftware, Osterfeldstrasse 79d,  
D2000 Hamburg, 54 Germany.  
ZX81 16K, cassette, price £4.50.*

This is one of a number of ZX games cassettes from this active supplier, who publishes many items of serious software as well as bringing American material to Europe.

Snake is not new — you may well know it already. However this is the first published ZX version I've seen; it is mainly in machine code.

The snake parades around its — er — pen under your control. Every so often a 'mouse' appears (a square of four graphic As). The snake must

the others quite unnecessary, is that you have to spend quite a while sorting out how to control the snake. The minimal paper documentation talks of using 'four direction keys' — but they are not the four other folk use, indeed all the keys I tried work.

Maybe this is to allow you to choose your own on the basis of comfort or which hand you use; maybe it is to make the game harder. Whatever the reason, I found this a waste of time.

Snake loads readily (it is recorded at high level, so beware) and is fair value for money bearing in mind its overseas origin. It takes up about 3K.

### **Summary**

A commanding game — but some programming deficiencies. **KJ**

### **Tunesmith**

*The Vic Centre, 154 Victoria Road,  
London W5.  
Cassette, price £5.95.*

Essentially this is a simple music composing program, allowing the writing, editing and saving of fairly straightforward tunes.

The number of notes you can enter obviously varies with the amount of RAM you have on board. On a Vic with 3K expansion (the minimum configuration) you have 50 notes.

The program is basically menu-driven: ie, on first running it you're presented with a series of options from which to proceed. The first course of action is to enter program mode and type in your magnum opus.

This is done straightforwardly enough, by answering the question 'How many notes?' and then just typing them in one after the other.

To each note you have an optional accompanying drum beat. This is followed by a request for how fast you want the tune to be played.

Next, how many times you want each note to be played, and finally whether you want them played singly or continuously.

Apart from the options for playing, loading or saving your work of art, and the option to quit the program, there is the sixth option — editing.

### **Summary**

This is an easy enough package to use. You won't end up producing

something the London Symphony Orchestra would be proud of, but everyone has to start somewhere. **PG**

### **Basic programming on the BBC Microcomputer**

*By Neil and Pat Cryer, published by  
Prentice-Hall, 195 pages paperback,  
price £5.95.*

'Approved by Acorn Computer' shouts the cover of this book. And so it should be, because it goes a long way towards making up for the absence of a manual for the BBC machine.

Neil and Pat Cryer are experienced programmers, and with the help of their two children and Acorn Computers they cover the BBC Micro well, extremely well.

But this is no book for the lone novice. In fact the BBC computer can't really be considered as a beginner's machine. Serious programming for it is very complex and requires a good deal of computer knowledge.

The book is comprehensive — it goes from switching on, through Basic and BBC Basic to special facilities. On the way it deals with colour programming, graphics, functions, string-handling, user-defined functions, procedures, file handling, programmable characters and sound. It does not go



into machine coding or interfacing, but those might make subjects for later volumes.

Because the material is of necessity cramped, the book is not always easy reading. But there are plenty of programs, exercises and ideas, and the exercises are followed by helpful discussion. The book closes with a not very useful summary of BBC Basic instructions and a detailed index.

### **Summary**

The book is sometimes superficial, and can be hard-going in places. But it still offers outstanding value. **ED**



catch the mouse before the latter disappears again. A caught mouse increases the snake's length by one block.

As it parades, the snake must not touch itself or the boundaries of the pen. The game also stops if you can reach a snake length of 100 units.

I couldn't succeed in that, despite my choice of ultra-slow snake speed and ultra-slow mouse retreat. Such a choice, determined by fear of ulcers, makes a very torpid but still most compelling game.

At the higher speeds you must be a maestro to get anywhere.

Once you have got the hang of this game — OK. However I found some early problems which shouldn't have been there. Thus numerical inputs are not mug-trapped and the ranges are not explained, while the introductory layout is poor.

(There are also a few seconds of FAST as soon as the program has loaded — unwise programming, because it makes you think the loading has crashed.)

The major early problem, and like

# Reviews

## hardware

### Vic Super Expander

Available from any Commodore VIC distributor.

Price £34.95 inc. VAT

There are so many Vic add-ons on the market, with more appearing daily, that it's difficult for a newcomer to computing to decide which one to buy. It makes a nice change, therefore, to find a product which is extremely useful and not that expensive!

The Vic Super Expander plugs into the back of the Vic, and on power-up you notice the first visible sign of the cartridge in operation — you now have 6519 bytes to play with.

The next feature you'll notice is that the Vic's function keys can be used meaningfully! For instance, pressing function key 1 produces the word GRAPHIC on the screen, and all the other function keys have similar commands associated with them.

More important than this, however, is the use of the Super Expander to



The Vic Super Expander

reassign the commands. I've now got into the habit of assigning function key 1 to be the keyword RUN plus a carriage return. Thus pressing key 1 runs your program at a single key stroke.

The limit to the amount of code you can assign to a single key appears to be four lines of the Vic screen, or 88 characters (less the five needed to set the command in operation).

There are nine graphic commands in total, together with a further command for controlling sound, and seven functions which enable you, among other things, to read the position of a game paddle, a joystick or a light pen.

The most frequently used commands will probably be DRAW, CIRCLE and PAINT, which when using the high resolution plotting mode of 1024 by 1024, enable you to produce very easily the most intricate patterns and designs, and are very useful in

illustrating a point in an educational program for example.

### Summary

This is a very useful package, which is highly recommended. **PG**

### DCP Control System

DCP Microdevelopments, 2 Station Close, Lingwood, Norwich. Prices: Basic P-Pack — £37.95; A-Pack — £19.95; C-Pack — £29.95. All include VAT and postage.

DCP has developed a control system for the ZX80 or ZX81. It consists of 5K of RAM for Basic or machine code, and a single input/output port. The port can be used to control many devices and two extra packs may be used with it to enhance the type of devices that can be controlled.

**The P-Pack:** the system is based on this pack which contains 4K of extra RAM to add to the internal 1K of the basic computer. This consists of two 6116 dynamic RAM chips.

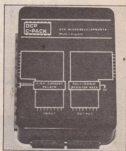
The port exists in the space where the sixth 'K' of RAM would exist. This means that the system cannot be expanded as it is without getting inside the pack, but as it is intended to only be a control system in a school or situation it should be adequate.

The port appears on twenty 0.1mm spaced molex pins at the back of the pack, eight of the pins being data lines and the other two being +5 volts and 0 volts. Only the output of the port, which is located at 22500, is latched.

The sockets to fit the pins can be obtained quite cheaply from electronic components stores. As the port is memory mapped into the RAM space it can be Peeked and Poked like a piece of RAM, making it easy to use in machine code or Basic.

**The A-Pack:** the A-Pack is used with the P-Pack to provide a single analogue-to-digital and digital-to-analogue converter. The P-Pack must be used to make the connection to the computer.

The pack can translate a voltage into a digital number for the port to put on its input data lines. A full eight bit resolution of a voltage between 0 and 2.55 volts can be obtained by Peeking the port. The number output by the port is converted into a voltage within the same range.



The DCP C-Pack

**The C-Pack:** this pack contains eight reed relays, controlled by the state of the bits from the output of the P-Pack. These relays operate one contact, which can switch up to 12 volts at a maximum current of 1 amp. The contact is closed by the appropriate bit going to binary 1.

The input of the pack is directly connected to the input of the P-Pack, so it requires a voltage of 2-5 volts to operate it. If nothing is connected however, eight resistors connect the inputs to 0 volts, thus the port result will give 0, if nothing is connected.

I have two reservations about the C-Pack. One is that the reed relays operate to a binary 1. This means that when the ZX80 or ZX81 is switched on all the relays will operate closing the switches.

As the switches will more than likely be used to control various devices, they will all operate on switching on the computer. Precautions should be taken therefore so that the devices to be controlled cannot be used before the program starts.

### Summary

The other observation is that the inputs to the C-Pack are not isolated from the port, so that any voltage above +5 volts could burn out not only the C-Pack, but the P-Pack as well. These packs will be very useful for demonstrating the use of a computer in a school or college. They would also be useful in a simple control application. In a more complicated one, they have the limit of only one port. **DH**



# Programming

## What happens when you peek inside & poke it?

**Nick Hampshire** explains exactly what those two often misunderstood terms mean...

The Basic commands Peek and Poke are often regarded by the uninitiated as very mysterious. But they should not remain in the least mysterious, because they are very useful commands in a wide range of applications.

The Peek function, as its name implies, allows the programmer to look at the contents of a specified memory location. The Poke statement allows the programmer to place a value in a specified memory location.

Before examining some of the applications, let's look at how Peek and Poke are used. Both commands have fixed formats involving two variables — the memory address, and the contents of that address.

The address variable, which in the following examples has the variable name A, must be an integer value in the range 0 to 65,535. The contents variable, called C in the examples, is also an integer variable and has the numeric range from 0 to 255. The formats of the two commands are as follows:

LET C = PEEK A

which loads the contents of memory address A into variable C, and

POKE A, C

which places the value in variable C into memory location A.

On the ZX81 the monitor — the machine code program stored on a ROM within the machine which allows one to write programs in Basic and use the machine's keyboard, display and so on — is located in the bottom 8192 locations, the bottom 8K of memory. The RAM memory which is used to store the user programs and variables starts at location 16384 and if the machine is expanded can go up to 32767.

The contents of both types of memory can be looked at with the Peek function but only the contents of RAM memory can be changed with the Poke statement.

### Applications for Peek and Poke

If you have more than 3.5K of memory in your ZX81 then the Peek and Poke



PEEK means to look at a given address: POKE means to add to or change it.

commands can be used with great effect to generate video displays. The video display on such a machine is stored as a file of 24 character strings, each 32 characters long and terminated in a Newline character. This 793 byte long display file is stored in RAM memory at a starting address contained in locations 16396 and 16397 and an end address stored in 16400 and 16401.

The following little program will print out all the Ascii character codes of the current contents of each display location on the screen:

```
10 LET S = PEEK 16396 + 256 * PEEK 16397
20 LET E = (PEEK 16400 + 256 * PEEK 16401) - 1
30 LET L = E - S
40 DIM X(L)
50 FOR Q = S TO E
60 LET X(Q-S) = PEEK(Q)
```

```
70 NEXT Q
80 FOR Q = 1 TO L
90 PRINT X(Q)
100 NEXT Q
```

Just as the above program will show the Ascii codes of each character stored in the display file we can use Poke to put characters on the display. Try the following program:

```
10 LET S = PEEK 16396 + 256 * PEEK 16397
20 LET E = PEEK 16400 + 256 * PEEK 16401
30 FOR Q = 1 TO 255
40 IF (Q/33) = INT(Q/33) - 1 GOTO 60
50 POKE Q = S, 15
60 NEXT Q
```

The purpose of line 40 is to protect the Newline characters at the end of each line in the display file. Change the value to be Poked into memory in line 50 and the resulting screen display will be different.

# Sinclair ZX81 Personal Computer

## the heart of a system that grows with you.

1980 saw a genuine breakthrough – the Sinclair ZX80, world's first complete personal computer for under £100. Not surprisingly, over 50,000 were sold.

In March 1981, the Sinclair lead increased dramatically. For just £69.95 the Sinclair ZX81 offers even more advanced facilities at an even lower price. Initially, even we were surprised by the demand – over 50,000 in the first 3 months!

Today, the Sinclair ZX81 is the heart of a computer system. You can add 16-times more memory with the ZX RAM pack. The ZX Printer offers an unbeatable combination of performance and price. And the ZX Software library is growing every day.

### Lower price: higher capability

With the ZX81, it's still very simple to teach yourself computing, but the ZX81 packs even greater working capability than the ZX80.

It uses the same micro-processor, but incorporates a new, more powerful 8K BASIC ROM – the 'trained intelligence' of the computer. This chip works in decimals, handles logs and trig, allows you to plot graphs, and builds up animated displays.

And the ZX81 incorporates other operation refinements – the facility to load and save named programs on cassette, for example, and to drive the new ZX Printer.



Every ZX81 comes with a comprehensive, specially-written manual – a complete course in BASIC programming, from first principles to complex programs.

## Kit: £49.<sup>95</sup>

### Higher specification, lower price – how's it done?

Quite simply, by design. The ZX80 reduced the chips in a working computer from 40 or so, to 21. The ZX81 reduces the 21 to 4!

The secret lies in a totally new master chip. Designed by Sinclair and custom-built in Britain, this unique chip replaces 18 chips from the ZX80!

### New, improved specification

- Z80A micro-processor – new faster version of the famous Z80 chip, widely recognised as the best ever made.

- Unique 'one-touch' key word entry: the ZX81 eliminates a great deal of tiresome typing. Key words (RUN, LIST, PRINT, etc.) have their own single-key entry.

- Unique syntax-check and report codes identify programming errors immediately.

- Full range of mathematical and scientific functions accurate to eight decimal places.

- Graph-drawing and animated-display facilities.

- Multi-dimensional string and numerical arrays.

- Up to 26 FOR/NEXT loops.

- Randomise function – useful for games as well as serious applications.

- Cassette LOAD and SAVE with named programs.

- 1K-byte RAM expandable to 16K bytes with Sinclair RAM pack.

- Able to drive the new Sinclair printer.

- Advanced 4-chip design: micro-processor, ROM, RAM, plus master chip – unique, custom-built chip replacing 18 ZX80 chips.



## Built: £69.<sup>95</sup>

### Kit or built – it's up to you!

You'll be surprised how easy the ZX81 kit is to build: just four chips to assemble (plus, of course the other discrete components) – a few hours' work with a fine-tipped soldering iron. And you may already have a suitable mains adaptor – 700 mA at 9 V DC nominal unregulated (supplied with built version).

Kit and built versions come complete with all leads to connect to your TV (colour or black and white) and cassette recorder.



# uter-



## Available now- the ZX Printer for only £59.95

Designed exclusively for use with the ZX81 (and ZX80 with 8K BASIC ROM), the printer offers full alpha-numerics and highly sophisticated graphics.

A special feature is COPY, which prints out exactly what is on the whole TV screen without the need for further instructions.

At last you can have a hard copy of your program listings - particularly

useful when writing or editing programs.

And of course you can print out your results for permanent records or sending to a friend.

Printing speed is 50 characters per second, with 32 characters per line and 9 lines per vertical inch.

The ZX Printer connects to the rear of your computer - using a stackable connector so you can plug in a RAM pack as well. A roll of paper (65 ft long x 4 in wide) is supplied, along with full instructions.

## 16K-byte RAM pack for massive add-on memory.

Designed as a complete module to fit your Sinclair ZX80 or ZX81, the RAM pack simply plugs into the existing expansion port at the rear of the computer to multiply your data/program storage by 16!

Use it for long and complex programs or as a personal database. Yet it costs as little as half the price of competitive additional memory.

With the RAM pack, you can also run some of the more sophisticated ZX Software - the Business & Household management systems for example.

### How to order your ZX81

BY PHONE - Access, Barclaycard or Trustcard holders can call

01-200 0200 for personal attention 24 hours a day, every day.

BY FREEPOST - use the no-stamp-needed coupon below. You can pay

by cheque, postal order, Access, Barclaycard or Trustcard, EITHER WAY - please allow up to 28 days for delivery. And there's a 14-day money-back option. We want you to be satisfied beyond doubt - and we have no doubt that you will be.

To: Sinclair Research Ltd, FREEPOST, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3BR.

Qty	Item	Code	Item price £	Order Total £
	Sinclair ZX81 Personal Computer kit(s). Price includes ZX81 BASIC manual, excludes mains adaptor.	12	49.95	
	Ready-assembled Sinclair ZX81 Personal Computer(s). Price includes ZX81 BASIC manual and mains adaptor.	11	69.95	
	Mains Adaptor(s) (700 mA at 9 V DC nominal unregulated).	10	8.95	
	16K-BYTE RAM pack	18	29.95	
	Sinclair ZX Printer	27	59.95	
	8K BASIC ROM to fit ZX80	17	19.95	
	Post and Packing			2.95

☐ Please tick if you require a VAT receipt

TOTAL £

\*I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to Sinclair Research Ltd. for £

\*Please charge to my Access/Barclaycard/Trustcard account no.

\*Please delete/complete as applicable

Please print

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss

Address:

FREEPOST - no stamp needed. Offer applies to UK only.

POC04

# sinclair ZX81

6 Kings Parade, Cambridge, Cambs., CB2 1SN.  
Tel: (0276) 66104 & 21282.

# Open Forum

OPEN FORUM is for you to publish your programs and ideas. It is important that you make sure your programs are bug-free before you send them in. We cannot test all of them.

As far as possible always send us a computer printed listing, made immediately after you have run the program.

Each program should include a description of what the program does, how to use it and how the program has been written.

Your contributions should be sent to Open Forum, Popular Computing Weekly, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2H 7HF with a stamped addressed envelope.

We will pay £10 for each contribution published.

## Anti-mind

## ZX81

It's about time that your ZX81, started working for its living, and this is just the program to make it do so. Instead of forcing you to think, and play Mastermind against it, this program plays Mastermind against you; that is, it tries to guess your four-digit code.

Your code must be made from the digits 1 to 6. Once the computer has made a guess, enter its score as a single string (such as 21 or 03), the first digit being the number of 'blacks' (correct digit in correct place), the second being the 'whites' (correct digit in the wrong position).

The program is rather slow, and can take up to four minutes to make a decision, but the average response time is about one minute. The ZX81 can take up to nine guesses to crack your code, but is unlikely to need more than seven guesses.

Always run it in FAST.

## Squash

## BBC

In this version of Squash, written in Mode 7 for the BBC Microcomputer, you use the Z and M keys to move the slide at the bottom of the screen right and left respectively.

The program keeps track of how long you keep the ball in flight, and at the end gives you a score based on this time. Pressing any key at the end

## Antimind

by Graham Charlton

	BLACK	WHITE
1	0	0
2	1	0
3	0	1
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	1
7	0	0
8	4	0

I GUESSED YOUR CODE IN 7 TRIES

```

10 PRINT TAB 8;"BLACK WHITE"
20 DIM A(10,5)
30 LET Z$="123456123456"(INT (RND*6)+1 TO )
40 LET S=1
50 LET G=1
60 LET D=1
70 FOR Z=S TO 6
80 FOR Y=S TO 6
90 FOR X=S TO 6
100 LET A(G,1)=Z
120 LET A(G,2)=Y
130 LET A(G,3)=X
140 LET A(G,4)=W
150 IF D=1 THEN GOTO 290
160 FOR T=1 TO G-1
170 LET E=4
180 LET K=A(T,1)
190 LET L=A(T,2)
200 LET M=A(T,3)
210 LET N=A(T,4)
220 FOR P=1 TO 4
230 LET R=A(G,P)
240 LET E=E-(R=K AND R=L AND R=M AND R=N)
250 NEXT P
260 LET E=E+9*(Z=K)+(Y=L)+(X=N)+(W=N)
270 IF E=A(T,5) THEN GOTO 410
280 PRINT T
290 PRINT AT 6,0;Z$(Z);" ";Z$(Y);" ";Z$(X);" ";Z$(W);
300 INPUT A$
310 PRINT " ";A$(1);" ";A$(2)
320 LET A(G,5)=VAL A$
330 LET G=G+1
340 LET D=D+1
350 IF G=11 THEN PRINT "I GIVE UP";D
360 IF VAL A$=40 THEN PRINT,"I GUESSED YOUR CODE IN
";G-1;" TRIES";D
370 IF VAL A$=0 THEN LET S=S+1
380 IF VAL A$<10 THEN GOTO 440
390 IF VAL A$<20 THEN GOTO 430
400 IF VAL A$<40 THEN GOTO 420
410 NEXT W
420 NEXT X
430 NEXT Y
440 NEXT Z
450 PRINT "I THINK YOU CHEATED";D

```



# Open Forum

of the game will give you a new game. There is a highest score feature.

You can make the game easier by changing the zero after INKEY\$ in line 140 to a 5 or a 10, and add a delay loop between lines 170 and 180. You may also wish to change the sound the ball makes when it bounces. Simply change the third figure after the word SOUND in lines 650 and 660. Try 120 + RND(130) or 240 + RND(14) for two different effects.

## Subchase ZX81

The main problem in using the ZX81 for games is the slowness of the Basic compared to that on more expensive machines.

This slowness is due largely to the way the display is handled. But when designing a program, you can give the illusion of increased speed, where in fact the speed remains constant.

In Subchase the illusion of speed is given by altering the relevant display as the value is calculated. Thus the display is continually changing to give the effect of increased speed. If the display were updated after all the values had been calculated, the response would be slow.

Subchase also demonstrates how

to use a graphic display employing PLOT to help increase speed.

Now let's look at the game in detail. Imagine yourself at the helm of a ship, your mission is to catch and destroy an enemy submarine. The program listed here is a real time program that simulates the action.

You have control of throttle and steering, the throttle is controlled by the numbers 0 to 9, and the steering by S, L and R, and depth charges are launched with key D.

L gives a 1 degree offset of course to port indicated by -1, and R gives a 1 degree offset of course to starboard indicated by +1. This course change is in force till the S key is pressed, this gives a course offset of zero. The offset to port or starboard can be set to +/- 10 degrees by using L/R with the shift key.

The display shows your speed and heading — the small marker above the scale. The target's speed, heading, bearing and distance are shown by the marker below the scale.

The throttle is such that a value of 5 keeps your speed constant, a value other than 5 slows you down or speeds you up at a rate of Throttle-5. The target's speed and heading re-

main constant until the sub is damaged, then its speed decreases by a set factor and its heading changes randomly.

The program was built on a 4K system and left little space for expansion, so the actual attack routine was left with room for improvement. However, this program gives the user a starting point as far as the trigonometry of such an operation is concerned, and with a 16K RAM pack the program can be advanced to a more accurate simulation.

The key inputs are done using the INKEY\$ function, so the input will, at times, be slow.

The program uses the built-in timer of the ZX81 to decide the time lapse to update the various displays. The distance is only displayed when the value is less than 6300 feet and when less than 630 feet the scale is enlarged.

When you are within 200 feet of the submarine you will be informed that the target is in range. Within 100 feet the sub will be hit, within 200 feet the sub will be damaged.

Happy hunting.

See page 18 for the full listing of Subchase.

```

10 REM * SQUASH *
20 REM save bat using the "Z" and "M" keys
30 REM (C) Hartnell 1982
40 REM FROM Let Your BBC Micro
50 REM Teach You to Program
60 MODE 7
70 HIGHSCORE=0
80 PROCset_up
90 REM*****
100 REPEAT
110 PRINT TAB(0,23):CHR(128+RND(5)):"High score is
120 PRINT TAB(0,5):CHR(128+RND(5))+120:"You have kept the ball
130 IN CLAT
140 PRINT CHR(128+5)+120:"for ".(TIME DIV 10)/10:" seconds
150 REMTIME=0
160 REM*****
170 IF RND(2) OR RND(2) THEN PROCmove_ball
180 PROCmove_ball
190 PRINT TAB(2+1,19):BAT$
200 UNTIL end
210 IF TIME DIV 100<HIGHSCORE HIGHSCORE=TIME DIV 100
220 TIME=0
230 REPEAT UNTIL TIME<1+90
240 RND(15,1)
250 FOR T=0 TO 3
260 SOUND T+16,-15,RND(100)+100,225
270 NEXT T
280 TIME=0
290 REPEAT UNTIL TIME<150
300 RND(15,8)
310 RND(12)
320 GOTO 730
330 REM*****
340 DEF PROCset_up
350 LOCAL
360 PRINT TAB(10,10):STRIGR(20,CHR(255))
370 FOR T=0 TO 10
380 PRINT TAB(10,T+10):CHR(225):TAB(30,T+10):CHR(255)

```

```

390 NEXT T
400 BAT$=""
410 HOBAT$=""
420 X=1
430 Y=1
440 LX=1
450 HX=1
460 TIME=0
470 B=10
480 PRINT TAB(11+8,19):BAT$
490 RND(15,1)
500 RND(12,1)
510 YD(23,800,0,0,0)
520 ENDPROC
530 REM*****
540 DEF PROCmove_ball
550 IF RND(2) AND B=16 THEN ENDPROC
560 IF RND(2) AND B=10 THEN ENDPROC
570 PRINT TAB(11+8,19):HOBAT$
580 IF RND(2) THEN B=B+1
590 IF RND(2) THEN B=B-1
600 PRINT TAB(11+8,19):BAT$
610 ENDPROC
620 REM*****
630 DEF PROCmove_ball
640 PRINT TAB(11+X,11+Y):" "
650 IF LX<0 OR LX<0 THEN LX=L+1:SOUND 1,-15,127,1
660 IF RND(2) OR RND(2) THEN RND(2)+1,-15,127,1
670 LOCAL
680 V=H
690 PRINT TAB(11+X,11+Y):""
700 IF V=H AND X<0 OR X<0 THEN X=X+2 THEN end=TRUE ELSE end=FALSE
710 RND(15)
720 ENDPROC
730 REM New game
740 PRINT "CHR(128+5)+120:"Press any key for a new
750 REM
760 RND(15)
770 GOTO 90

```

Squash  
by Tim Hartnell

# Open Forum

```

10 REM STRAIGHT LINE DEPRECIATION
20 REM (C) 1980/1981
30 LET YEAR=0
40 SCROLL
50 PRINT "ENTER PURCHASE PRICE"
60 INPUT PRICE
70 SCROLL
80 PRINT "PURCHASE PRICE #":PRICE
90 SCROLL
100 PRINT "ENTER LIFE OF ASSET (YEARS)"
110 INPUT LIFE
120 SCROLL
130 PRINT "LIFE OF ASSET IS "LIFE:" YEARS"
140 LET DEPREC=(INT) (PRICE*100/LIFE)/100
150 SCROLL
160 PRINT "IT DEPRECIATES #":DEPREC:" A YEAR"
170 SCROLL
180 PRINT "ENTER 1ST YEAR OF USE (AS 1962)"
190 INPUT YEAR
200 SCROLL
210 SCROLL
220 PRINT "YEAR","WORTH"
230 SCROLL
240 PRINT "YEAR","WORTH"
250 SCROLL
260 PRINT YEAR,"#":PRICE
270 LET PRICE=PRICE-DEPREC
280 IF PRICE<0 THEN GOTO 300
290 LET YEAR=YEAR+1
300 GOTO 230
300 COPY

```

## Utility No. 1

by Ken Mahogany

AB - On this listing the hash sign (#) signifies pounds (£)

## Sample run

```

ENTER PURCHASE PRICE
PURCHASE PRICE #270
ENTER LIFE OF ASSET (YEARS)
LIFE OF ASSET IS 7 YEARS
IT DEPRECIATES #107.14 A YEAR
ENTER 1ST YEAR OF USE (AS 1962)

```

YEAR	WORTH
1962	#270
1963	#642.86
1964	#535.72
1965	#428.58
1966	#321.44
1967	#214.3
1968	#107.16

```

5 LET TH=5
6 LET RH=0
7 LET CD=0
8 LET SC=100
10 LET E=0
15 LET RH=0
20 LET XT=5000-(10000*RH)
30 LET YT=5000-(10000*RH)
40 LET VT=64490
50 LET HT=241690
60 LET YH=64490
70 LET HH=241690
80 LET PH=241690
90 LET RH="SGR CXTXHT+VT+VT"
100 LET BH="WTN CXTXHT"
110 LET DH="XT-(1.466666667*WTH*(VMSIN H-VTMSIN HT))"
120 LET EH="YT-(1.466666667*WTH*(VMSIN H-VTMSIN HT))"
130 LET FH="(65535-CPEEK 16436+256*PEEK 16437)/50"
140 GOSUB 2000
150 PLOT V,-40
160 PLOT VT,37
170 PLOT INT (H/(P/64)),20
180 PLOT INT (HT/(P/64)),27
190 PEEK 16436,255
200 PEEK 16437,255
210 LET B=VH RH
220 IF D<6300 THEN UNPLOT D/SC,11
230 LET B=VH RH
232 IF D<6300 THEN LET SC=10
234 IF D<6300 THEN LET SC=100
236 PRINT AT 14,10,"STRE (SC:100)"
240 IF D<6300 THEN PLOT D/SC,11
242 IF D<6300 THEN PRINT AT 21,0,"TARGET IN RANGE"
244 IF D<6300 THEN PRINT AT 21,0,""
245 GOSUB 1000
246 IF E THEN RUN
250 IF XT=0 THEN LET XT=1E-30
255 UNPLOT INT (B/(P/64)),19
260 LET B=VH RH
310 IF XT=0 THEN LET B=(P/4)-B
320 IF XT=0 THEN LET B=(P/80,75)-B
330 PLOT INT (B/(P/64)),19
340 LET TH=VH F3
350 PEEK 16437,255
356 IF E THEN RUN
360 UNPLOT V,-40
370 LET VHH=(TH-5)
380 IF V<63 THEN LET V=63
392 IF V<0 THEN LET V=0
390 PLOT V,-40
400 UNPLOT INT (H/(P/64)),20
410 LET RH=0

```

## Subchase

by John Sylvester

```

420 IF HCB THEN LET RH=H
430 IF HOP THEN LET RH=H
440 PLOT INT (H/(P/64)),20
450 LET TH=VH F3
460 LET VT=VH F3
470 GOTO 220
1000 LET KH=JHEVB
1010 IF KH=" " THEN RETURN
1020 IF KH="0" OR KH="9" THEN GOTO 1060
1030 LET TH=VH KH
1040 PRINT AT 10,2,TH
1050 RETURN
1060 IF KH="L" THEN LET CD=P/360
1070 IF KH="R" THEN LET CD=P/360
1080 IF KH="u" THEN LET CD=P/36
1090 IF KH="c" THEN LET CD=P/36
1100 IF KH="S" THEN GOTO 1200
1105 IF KH="S" THEN LET CD=0
1110 PRINT AT 10,21,CD*100/P,1,"DEGS."
1120 RETURN
1200 PRINT AT 21,0,"DEPTH CHARGES LAUNCHES"
1210 FOR K=1 TO 100
1220 NEXT K
1230 IF D<6300 THEN GOTO 1290
1240 PRINT AT 21,0,"MISSED - CONTINUE SEARCH"
1250 FOR K=1 TO 100
1260 NEXT K
1270 PRINT AT 21,0,""
1280 RETURN
1290 IF D<100 THEN GOTO 1360
1300 PRINT AT 21,0,"SUB DAMAGED"
1310 UNPLOT VT,37
1315 PLOT VT,37
1316 UNPLOT INT (HT/(P/64)),27
1320 LET HT=VH RH
1325 PLOT INT (HT/(P/64)),27
1330 GOTO 1250
1360 PRINT AT 21,0,"DIRECT HIT"
1370 LET E=1
1380 GOTO 1250
2000 GOSUB 1000
2020 PRINT "SPEED MPH.....0.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5
.....6"
2030 PRINT "HEADING DEGREES","0" 90 180
270 360"
2040 PRINT "BEARING DEGREES","0" 90 180
360"
2060 PRINT "DISTANCE 31000 FT."
2070 PRINT "0.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6"
2080 PRINT "THROTTLE STEERING"
2090 RETURN

```

# Open Forum

## Utility programs

**ZX81**

Here are two utility programs for the ZX81 which demonstrate convincingly that the power of the Sinclair computer is not limited to playing games.

The first program produces a straight line depreciation table, as can be seen from the sample run. Not the effect of line 140, which stops the computer from working in fractions of a pound less than 1p. Without this feature, the output could contain absurd data such as £123.87654.

The second program — Mean, Standard Deviation and Variance — uses data entered by the user to produce the three outputs mentioned in the title. You enter the items of data one by one, followed by the frequency, and then enter \$ when you wish the computer to start processing.

## Layout planner

**ZX81**

Moving house? Reorganising the office? This program can help you with your planning.

Key in the dimensions of a piece of furniture, in either feet and inches or millimetres, and the ZX81 will print a rectangular cut-out of the appropriate dimensions. The scale is such that the full width of the paper — 90 mm — represents approximately nine feet or three metres, so you can draw a plan of your room accordingly.

The program allows you to key in a description of each item, which must of course be short enough to fit into the size of the rectangle. Note that if you are using imperial measurements, the program will accept a measurement such as 39 inches, but only if zero is entered against 'feet'.

The appearance of the program can be improved by using inverse video for the messages. Store requirement is about 2.5K.

See page 20 for the full listing of *Layout planner*.

## Cricket

**ZX81**

This is a simple reaction test game; you have to press the correct key within the time allowed, or else you are bowled out.

The game can be made easier or harder by altering the length of the pause at line 140.

See page 20 for the full listing of *Cricket*.

## Utility No. 2

by Ken Mahogany

```

10 REM MEAN, STANDARD
20 REM DEVIATION,
30 REM VARIANCE
40 REM (C) MAHOGANY 1982
44 SCROLL
45 PRINT "ENTER # TO TERMINATE ENTRIES"
50 DIM A(50)
60 DIM B(50)
70 LET Z=0
80 LET Z=Z+1
90 SCROLL
95 SCROLL
100 PRINT "ENTER ITEM ";Z;
110 INPUT X#
120 IF X#=" $" THEN GOTO 1000
130 LET NUMBER=VAL (X#)
140 LET A(Z)=NUMBER
160 PRINT NUMBER
170 SCROLL
180 PRINT "ENTER FREQUENCY ";
190 INPUT FREQ
200 LET B(Z)=FREQ
210 PRINT FREQ
220 GOTO 80
1000 LET P=0
1010 LET Q=0
1020 LET L=0
1030 FOR W=1 TO 50
1040 LET P=P+B(W)
1050 LET Q=Q+B(W)*A(W)
1060 LET L=L+B(W)*A(W)*A(W)
1070 NEXT W
1080 SCROLL
1090 SCROLL
1100 SCROLL
1110 PRINT "MEAN IS ";Q/P
1120 SCROLL
1130 PRINT "VARIANCE IS ";1/Q*(Q*(P/P)-
1140 SCROLL
1150 PRINT "STANDARD DEVIATION IS ";SQR (L/P-Q*(Q*(P/P)))

```

## Sample run

ENTER # TO TERMINATE ENTRIES

ENTER ITEM 1 23  
ENTER FREQUENCY 4

ENTER ITEM 2 24  
ENTER FREQUENCY 4

ENTER ITEM 3 25  
ENTER FREQUENCY 4

ENTER ITEM 4

MEAN IS 24  
VARIANCE IS 0.66666675  
STANDARD DEVIATION IS 0.81649553

# Open Forum

## Cricket by Phil Garratt

```

50 LET V=0
60 LET X=0
70 IF V=10 THEN GOTO 3000
80 PRINT "YOUR SCORE IS "X" FOR "V" WICKETS"
120 GOSUB 1000+INT(RND*5)*20
130 PRINT 38:"-HIT "B(1)
140 PRUSE 80
160 CLS
170 IF INKEY$<B(1) THEN GOTO 200
180 GOSUB 2000+INT(RND*5)*20
190 GOTO 70
200 PRINT "BOWLED"
210 LET V=V+1
220 GOTO 70
1000 LET B="BOUNCER"
1010 RETURN
1020 LET B="OFF-SPIN"
1030 RETURN
1040 LET B="BOWLINGER"
1050 RETURN
1060 LET B="YORKER"
1070 RETURN
1080 LET B="FULL TOSSE"
1090 RETURN
2000 PRINT "SIDE"
2005 LET X=X+6
2010 RETURN
2020 PRINT "FOUR"
2025 LET X=X+4
2030 RETURN
2040 PRINT "TWO"
2045 LET X=X+2
2050 RETURN
2060 PRINT "SINGLE"
2065 LET X=X+1
2070 RETURN
2100 PRINT "CAUGHT"
2105 LET V=V+1
2110 RETURN
3000 PRINT "YOU MADE "X" ALL OUT"

```

## Simon

## Vic

This is a relatively simple (hence the name) game to play, but one which can get very frustrating. Essentially, the Vic plays a tune while flashing four different coloured squares, with more notes in the tune as it goes on.

You have to remember the order in which they were played, and reproduce that tune yourself.

Sounds easy? You try it!

## Poker dice

## ZX81

The ZX81 always goes first in this version of Poker dice. The computer will deal itself a hand and then give one to you. If you wish to change any of your cards, enter the numbers of the relevant cards as a single string. That is, if you want to change cards 2, 3 and 4 of your hand, enter 234 and the ZX81 deals three new cards.

Enter 0 if you don't want to change any of the cards. The inverse string, line 1000, reads 9TJQKA, all in inverse graphics. Now, let the ZX81 deal, and see if you can beat it!

For the full listing of Poker dice see page 22.

```

1 REM LAYOUT 820323
2 REM COPYRIGHT TIM GOLDINGHAM 1982
3 REM SCALE 30000 30/30T
10 LET X=0
20 CLS
30 PRINT AT 0.0:"FEET/INCHES OR MOLLIMETRES/10"
40 PRUSE 404
50 IF INKEY$="H" THEN GOTO 250
60 IF INKEY$="P" AND INKEY$="H" THEN RUN
70 CLS
80 LET X=X+1
90 PRINT "WIDTH FT? ";
100 INPUT W
120 IF W<INT W THEN GOTO 90
130 PRINT W
140 LET W=W*12
150 PRINT THE 5:"INCH? ";
160 INPUT I
170 IF I<11 AND W THEN GOTO 150
180 PRINT I
190 LET W=W+I*127.7777
200 GOSUB 1000
210 IF F THEN GOTO 90
220 PRINT
230 PRINT "DEPTH FT? ";
240 INPUT D
250 IF D<INT D THEN GOTO 230
260 PRINT D
270 LET D=D*12
280 PRINT THE 5:"INCH? ";
285 INPUT I
290 IF I<11 AND D THEN GOTO 150
300 PRINT I
310 LET D=D+I*127.7777
320 GOSUB 1100
330 IF F THEN GOTO 230
340 GOTO 500
350 CLS
360 PRINT "WIDTH? ";
370 INPUT W
380 GOSUB 1000
390 IF F THEN GOTO 360
400 PRINT W
410 PRINT
420 PRINT "DEPTH? ";
430 INPUT D

```

```

440 GOSUB 1100
450 IF F THEN GOTO 420
460 PRINT D
500 LET W=INT (W/50+.5)
510 LET D=INT (D/50+.5)
520 PRINT "DESCRIPTION? ";
530 PRINT AT 20.0:"DO NOT TYPE TO THE RIGHT OF V"
540 PRINT AT 21.0/2,"V"
550 INPUT DE
560 IF LEN DE<W/2+1 THEN GOTO 550
570 CLS
600 FOR J=0 TO W
610 PLOT J,43-D
620 PLOT J,43
640 NEXT J
650 FOR J=0 TO 43
660 PLOT 0,J
670 PLOT W,J
680 NEXT J
690 PRINT AT D/4-1,W/2-LEN DE/2,DE
700 PRINT AT 21.17:"PRESS Z TO COPY"
710 PRUSE 404
720 IF INKEY$="Z" THEN GOTO 740
730 COPY
740 CLS
750 IF F THEN GOTO 90
760 GOTO 350
1000 LET F=0
1010 IF W<3000 THEN GOTO 1050
1020 PRINT "100 SMALL"
1030 LET F=1
1040 RETURN
1050 IF W<3000 THEN RETURN
1060 PRINT "100 BIG"
1070 LET F=1
1080 RETURN
1100 LET F=0
1110 IF D<3000 THEN GOTO 1150
1120 PRINT "100 SMALL"
1130 LET F=1
1140 RETURN
1150 IF D<3000 THEN RETURN
1160 PRINT "100 BIG"
1170 LET F=1
1180 RETURN

```

## Layout planner

by Tim Goldingham



## Open Forum

```
10 GOTO 1000
20 LET A(A)*=INT (RND*6)+1
30 LET B$(2*A)=A$(A(A))
40 RETURN
50 FOR A=1 TO 5
60 GOSUB 20
70 LET B(A(A))=B(A(A))+1
80 NEXT A
90 PRINT TAB 10;B$
100 PRINT
110 FOR G=1 TO 2
120 GOSUB 500
130 PRINT TAB 10;B$
140 PRINT
150 NEXT G
160 PRINT TAB 12;"PLAYER"
170 PRINT
180 FOR C=1 TO 5
190 LET C$(2*C)=A$(INT (RND*6)+1)
200 NEXT C
210 PRINT TAB 10;C$
220 PRINT
230 FOR G=1 TO 2
240 INPUT D$
250 IF D$="0" THEN GOTO 300
260 FOR C=1 TO LEN D$
```

```
270 LET C$(2*VAL D$(C))=A$(INT(RND*6)+1)
280 NEXT C
290 PRINT TAB 10;C$
300 PRINT
310 NEXT G
320 FOR A=1 TO 200
330 NEXT A
340 CLS
350 RUN
500 DIM B(6)
510 FOR B=1 TO 6
520 IF B(B)>2 THEN LET B(B)=1
530 NEXT B
540 FOR A=1 TO 5
550 IF B(A(A))=1 THEN GOSUB 20
560 LET B(A(A))=B(A(A))+1
570 NEXT A
580 RETURN
1000 LET A$="STUCK"
1010 DIM B$(10)
1020 DIM A(5)
1030 DIM B(6)
1040 DIM C$(10)
1050 PRINT TAB 13;"2X8!"
1060 PRINT
1070 GOTO 50
```

Poker dice  
by Tim Hartnell

# CLASSIFIED

**Buying? Selling? Recruiting  
Software? Swapping? Hardware?**

Whatever it is you want to advertise  
get a fast response from *Popular Computing Weekly*.

Now you don't have to wait for months  
to get your ad in the press.

Call David Lake on 01 839 2846 now,  
or use our write-in service

**STARTING NEXT WEEK**

# Peek & poke

Peek your technical queries to Graham Charlton. He will poke back an answer.

## HOW TO RANDOMIZE COLOUR ON A VIC?

Charles Seyche of Willow Road, Camock, Staffs writes:

**Q** I have written an adventure game for my Vic-20, and would like to know if it is possible to add a routine which will automatically change print statements to a random colour, so that if the same message comes up more than once in a game, it will not necessarily appear in the same colour each time. Is there a routine that can do that, please?

**A** It can be done fairly easily by assigning a string, say A\$, to all the colour codes at the start of the game. Then you need a subroutine, which assigns B\$ to one element of A\$. The main line of the subroutine should be:

```
B$=MID$(A$,INT(RND
```

```
(1)*7)+1,1).
```

Then, when you return to the main program, use a line beginning:

```
PRINT B$; ' put your words here...
```

This should produce the effect you want.

## HUBBLE BUBBLE RAM IS NO TROUBLE

John McPherson of Landsdown Grove, Swansea writes:

**Q** I have just built myself a 16K memory unit and have become very interested in how computer memory works. I have some idea, but would like to know more, especially about bubble memories, which I saw demonstrated at the 'Challenge of the Chip' exhibition at the Science Museum last year. Could you suggest a source of information on computer memory for me?

**A** There are a number of good (and pretty complicated) books which discuss computer memory. A good general introduction to the subject is Walter H. Buchsbaum's book *Personal Computers Handbook*, published by Howard W. Sams and Co.

Other books which treat the subject in more detail include:

- *Computer Storage Systems*

and *Technology*, by R. Manick, from John Wiley and Sons.

- *Memory Design: Microcomputers to Mainframes*, in the Electronic Book Series, from McGraw-Hill.

- *Microprocessor Applications Manual*, via Motorola Semiconductor Products, from McGraw-Hill.

- *Introduction to Microprocessors*, by L. A. Leventhal, from Prentice-Hall.

## WHERE HAVE ALL THE ZX USERS GONE?

Martin Hedger of Oxford Gardens, Ashford, writes:

**Q** I want to get in touch with other ZX81 owners in my own area. Can you put me in touch with some please?

**A** There is a local ZX81 Users' Group in Orpington, Kent, organised by Roger Pyatt, at 23 Arundel Drive. You can phone him on (66) 2881.

If you would prefer to start your own group, we suggest you place an advertisement in a local paper, saying something like: 'Interested in the ZX81? So am I. Please get in touch so we can share programs...' then put your name and address or phone number.

I think you'll be pleasantly surprised at the response you get.

## BBC KEEP QUIET ON MICRO SOUND FX

Graham Blackmore of Bridge Lane, St Leonards writes:

**Q** I have a BBC Microcomputer and find the instructions regarding the sound in the manual absolutely useless. All it says is: 'The syntax for this statement was not available in time for this provisional User Guide.' Could you please tell me how they work?

**A** The BBC estimate they will have to send out some 30,000 copies of the new User Guide when it is complete. From the proofs of the new guide, and from my own experiments on the computer, it is clear that the SOUND

command is very easy to use, and if you avoid ENVELOPE the first few times you use the computer's sound facility, you'll find SOUND easy to master.

The word SOUND has to be followed by four parameters. The first (0 to 3) chooses the sound channel, the second (-1 to -15) sets the volume, the third chooses the pitch of the note (1 to 254) and the fourth controls its duration.

A simple, one-line program which puts all the SOUND output through its paces indefinitely, producing a sort of weird electronic music, is:

```
10 SOUND RND(4)-1,-(RND  
(15)*RND(254)*RND(20))
```

```
20 RUN
```

The sound command is very versatile, as can be seen from the following program, which produces an effect you may well wish to incorporate into a program. It is only one sample of the infinite range of sounds available:

```
10 SOUND 0,-15,100,6
```

```
20 SOUND 1,-15,120,5
```

```
30 SOUND 2,-15,140,4
```

```
40 SOUND 3,-15,160,3
```

## THE HILLS ARE ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF

Paul Jacobson of Sandy Hill Road, Birmingham writes:

**Q** I have heard that it is possible to play music on a ZX81. I can't see how this could be done, short of somehow modifying the horrible sound that the computer makes when it is SAVING. Could you please tell me if it is possible to use the ZX81 for music, and if so, how it could be done?

**A** It is possible to produce music of sorts from the ZX81, although the sound is not good enough to allow the computer to be used as a true musical instrument.

You need a machine code routine and a good one is given in the book *Mastering Machine Code on Your ZX81*. Author Toni Baker makes some pretty extravagant claims for this routine, saying, for example: '... one big advantage machine code does have over Basic is precision —

and this program is in machine code, not Basic.'

If you don't want to go to the trouble of working in machine code, a music program (of sorts) can be written in Basic. Try the following, and see what it produces from your TV's speaker.

```
10 REM=MUSIC
```

```
(C)
```

```
MAHOGANY 1980
```

```
20 FOR Z=1 TO RND*60
```

```
30 SLOW
```

```
40 FAST
```

```
50 NEXT Z
```

```
60 FOR Z=1 TO RND*60
```

```
70 SLOW
```

```
80 FAST
```

```
90 NEXT Z
```

```
100 FOR Z=1 TO RND*60
```

```
110 SLOW
```

```
120 FAST
```

```
130 NEXT Z
```

```
140 FOR Z=1 TO RND*60
```

```
150 SLOW
```

```
160 FAST
```

```
170 NEXT Z
```

```
180 PAUSE RND*10
```

```
190 RUN
```

## I WANT TO BUILD UP MY ATOM

Tony Asherwood of Hilltop Lane, Paignton, Devon writes:

**Q** I have an Acorn Atom which I bought, unfortunately just before the news that Acorn would build the BBC Micro was announced. Is it possible to upgrade my Atom to BBC specifications through some EPROM, or something similar? What other EPROMs are available for the Atom?

**A** Acorn originally promised that EPROMs to bring the Atom some of the way towards the BBC Micro would be available in early January, but they do not seem to have appeared.

When they do, it will give your Atom the facility in working in a generous subset of BBC Basic.

There is a 4K ROM version of Visicalc available for the Atom which, says Acorn, can cope with anything from a household budget to company accounts.

Send your questions to Peek & poke, *Popular Computing Weekly*, Hobhouse Court, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC2E 7HF.

# Languages

## It's easy once you can speak the language

*David Kingsbury puts in a good word for assembler or low-level languages.*

MANY TEACHERS of computer studies believe assembly language programming is destructive because it can confuse pupils. They say it does not allow an easy appreciation of the structure and flow of good programming.

As with all good fishing stories, there is just enough truth in this notion to allow someone to extend the argument beyond recognition. Many of those who put down assembly languages or 'assemblers' use and promote Basic or another high-level language such as Pascal, Comal or Fortran.

Here are some harsh facts.

There is no 'best' computer language, because there is no 'best' job for a computer to do. But some languages are very successful for certain tasks.

Basic is a good language for beginners to learn about computing, but it is a dreadful distortion of Basic to use it for word processing. It is also impossible to write high-speed programs to produce pictures or graphic displays in Basic.

Fortran, the grand-daddy of high-level languages is a good language for scientific applications.

### You will get faster

Fortran and languages such as Basic are arguably the most general purpose languages currently available; fast, versatile, suitable both for controlling aluminium smelters and for handling text manipulation. They are not easy, however, to read at the more primitive levels of a program's development.

Assemblers are low-level computer languages in which one instruction by the programmer produces one instruction in machine code for the computer to obey. Consequently it is difficult to write programs in assembler quickly if your program is still in the early stages of its development.

But if you really understand the purpose of your program and the steps you must carry out to achieve

the ultimate aim, programming in assembler will get faster and faster as you combine subroutines and modules that you have already written.

Let's look at how programs can be constructed using standard assembler instructions. Suppose you came across the following program:

```
1 BUTTERCUP ZERO
2 COWSLIP SPACE
3 TRIFLE DODGWORT (SCREENTOP), Y
4 ROSEHIP
5 HARESFOOT LINELength
6 MEADOWSAFFRON TRIFLE
```

You might reasonably regard this with some suspicion. But it is just a program written in assembly language to clear the top line of the screen in a computer using a 6502 central processor unit.

### Any names would do

Look at the program again when it is written like this:

```
1 LDY ZERO
2 Load register Y with zero
3 LDA SPACE
4 Load the accumulator with a space character
```

```
5 TRIFLE STA (SCREENTOP), Y
6 Store the value in the accumulator in the memory location pointed to by adding the variable SCREENTOP to the value in register Y
```

```
7 INY
8 Add one to the value in register Y
9 CPY LINELength
10 Compare the value in Y with the value in the variable LINELength
```

```
11 BNE TRIFLE
12 Branch to the label TRIFLE if Y is not equal to LINELength
```

```
13 TRIFLE
14 The point of the herbal names in the first version is only to point out that an assembler could use any names or mnemonics to describe the same action. For example, MEADOWSAFFRON may be BNE or anything else in source code, so long as it stores the 6502 machine code instruction D9 when the program is assembled to object code.
```

Early assemblers for microcomputers sometimes used non-standard mnemonics but you should now be able to buy an assembly language program for any microcomputer that uses standard names for each instruction strictly in accordance with the

central processor unit's manufacturers specifications.

A lot of talk goes on about 'structured' languages. Or how isn't it good that PASCAL is structured and isn't it bad that BASIC just works without structure.

Programming with a clear idea of what you want to achieve is most likely to be successful and if you break the task down into smaller jobs and bits that you will do many times then you acquire structure without really noticing.

Nevertheless, a well-designed language can make you think about a problem in ways that will contribute to its solution. The instructions:

```
DO UNTIL
REPEAT . . . WHILE
IF . . . THEN . . . ELSE
```

are generally held to be structured in the sense that they define a module in the program with a known exit.

### Look for structure

Assembly language programs can have as much or more structure than higher-level programs. Look at this short program for example:

```
1 WATCH PHP
2 PHA
3 W1 JSR GETCHAR
4 LDA CHARACTER
5 CMP CARRIAGERETURN
6 BNE W1
7 PLA
8 PLP
9 RTS
```

That is a DO . . . UNTIL construction in that the program carries out the instructions in the loop formed by lines 3 to 6 until the key pressed by the operator is the Carriage return or newline key.

If you are approaching this subject for the first time then some of the terms will be unfamiliar. The easiest way to overcome the problem is to acquire a well-written book and read it while using your computer.

For people with a 6502 based machine there is nothing better than 6502 Software Design by Leo J. Scanlon (Howard W Sams & Co. Inc. ISBN 0-672-21656-6).

Other books are available for Z80 based computers. For example, the one by Adam Osborne is quite adequate.



# Sound & vision

```

100 REM
200 REM INITIALIZE
300 REM
400 V1=36874 : V2=36875 : V3=36876 : V4=36877 : V5=36878
500 REM SET VOLUME
600 POKE V5,7
700 REM
800 REM INPUT NOTES
900 REM KEY OF C
1000 REM
1100 DIM A(15)
1200 FOR I = 1 TO 15 : READ A(I) : NEXT I
1300 DATA 195,201,207,209,215,219,223,225,228,231,232,236,237,239,240
1400 REM
1500 REM INPUT USER DEFINED TUNE
1600 REM
1700 PRINT "HOW MANY NOTES " : INPUT N
1800 DIM NN (N,3)
1900 PRINT "ENTER TUNE" : PRINT " VOICE1,VOICE2,VOICE3, RETURN"
2000 FOR I=1 TO N : INPUT NN(I,1), NN(I,2), NN(I,3) : NEXT I
2100 REM
2200 REM NOW PLAY TUNE
2300 REM
2400 FOR I=1 TO N
2500 POKE V1,A(NN(I,1)):POKE V2,A(NN(I,2)):POKE V3,A(NN(I,3))
2600 FOR J=1 TO 100 : NEXT J
2700 POKE V1,0:POKE V2,0 : POKE V3,0
2800 NEXT I
2900 PRINT "PLAY TUNE AGAIN":INPUT W$: IF W$="Y" THEN GOTO 2400

```

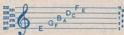
## Stick this in your Vic and play a tune

The Vic 20 microcomputer from Commodore is an ideal first buy for any user interested in microcomputer music. Although you won't quite be competing with Depeche Mode from the day your Vic arrives, the sounds that the computer makes possible are to say the least interesting.

I found that after a while the limitations of the Vic started to become annoying, but for beginners it is fine. The graphics are good too.

The listing given here provides the kernel of a music-making program, which will give you some ideas to work from. You can make it more sophisticated — especially with regard to the input routines — in a number of ways. A smart screen display wouldn't go amiss either. I left those so you can slot them in to suit your own tastes.

To keep things simple, the notes stored in the array A are two octaves worth of the key of C. If your ears are very good you will notice that the notes are not exactly perfect, but for now they will pass muster. Figure 1 shows the notes together with the values that need to be poked into the



C	195	1
D	201	2
E	207	3
F	209	4
G	215	5
A	219	6
B	223	7
C	225	8
D	228	9
E	231	10
F	232	11
G	236	12
A	237	13
B	239	14
C	240	15

Vic's voice registers to obtain those notes; the third column shows the positions of the notes in the array.

Figure 2 shows a musical staff. The names of the notes are marked on the staff in their correct positions. To the left of the staff is a list of the numbers relating to each of the notes, and to the right is the position of the note in array A. Enter a zero to output a silence from any one of the voices at any point in the tune.

The program is pretty straightforward. When it is run, the question "How many notes?" appears. On an unexpanded Vic you will be able to store around 130 notes, on a Vic with the 3K super-extender this becomes about 280 notes. After that you have to input the notes, giving the numbers in figures 1 and 2 — voice 1 first, followed by a comma; then voice 2, comma; voice 3, return. The tune will then play.

If the volume on your tv is set too loud, you may jump out of your skin. But you are now making microcomputer music.

Try buying the sheet music of your favourite songs and enter them, but remember that the timings are not programmed yet. **Sam Blythe**

# Competitions

## 1 Here's how you can win a ZX81 16K RAM

Each week we plan to give away a valuable piece of hardware as a prize for the best program written by you, the readers, on a theme set by us.

The program must be no longer than 100 lines, and be suitable for the Vic 20, the ZX81, or the BBC Micro.

Your entry should be accompanied by an explanation of the function and use of the program and also of how you went about writing it.

The winner will be the reader who in the opinion of the Editor of *Popular Computing Weekly* has sent in the most original and inventive program.

In all cases his decision is final.

From time to time we will also publish programs which did not win the competition, but which we think will be interesting to other readers.

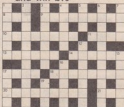
If that happens we will pay the usual rate for contributions to the magazine.

This week's fantastic prize is a ZX81 16K RAM pack and the theme for the competition is: *Treasure Island*.

Send your program to: The Editor, *Popular Computing Weekly*, 19 Whitcomb Street, London WC1.

Please mark your entry 'Hardware Competition 2' — and remember it must reach us by first post May 10, 1982.

## 2 Complete the crossword and win £10



### ACROSS

- 8 Device for driving king out of 17A in retreat (3)
- 9 Records work areas (9)
- 10 Shows power of interpreter (8)
- 11 Quilt song of a couple (4)
- 12 Spiked point leads to sick man (8)
- 14 Dad gets cover for protection (6)
- 15 Shelf stretcher (4)
- 16 Computing fruit, sound but with trace of Ura-rum (8)
- 20 Gangster has a turn before removing a thousand from minimum metal (9)
- 21 The trouble with getting the horse away from 13A (3)

### DOWN

- 1 Obscure output device (8)
- 2 You're reading the answer! (7,4)
- 3 Permitted Grandmother to go on health (7)
- 4 Representative of a man (5)
- 5 Operate, using the calculus, extracting the best part (3)
- 6 Four-bit representation had lice — revise exam! (11)
- 7 Ruler giving direction to a sailor (4)
- 12 Clears floor spaces (7)
- 13 Switch fastening (6)
- 16 Texas Instruments up in 19D demonstration (3,2)
- 17 Quickly re-advertise for basic data input (4)
- 19 Do the wrong function (3)

## 3 Solve the puzzle and win a gift voucher!

The staff of the 'Newerworks Telephone Company' played an April Fool's day joke on the foreman.

Some of the apprentices made a special 'joke' dial that they slipped into a batch of phone dials which had been delivered. As you can see the figures were all jumbled up.

The foreman was most disconcerted, as he assumed that the whole batch was faulty. He got so angry that he threw the joke dial against the wall.

The apprentices found that the dial had broken into three pieces, and that the number shown by the digits on one of the pieces was the result that would be obtained by multiplying the numbers produced by the digits (or digit) on both of the other two pieces.

In each case the number was that obtained by reading round in a clockwise direction.

What were the numbers?

Readers can enter any or all of our competitions, but please use a separate envelope for each as this helps our judges.

The winner for the crossword and the winner of the puzzle in each case will be the first name out of the hat.

Closing date for both the crossword and the puzzle is the Monday, three weeks after the cover date.

Please mark your envelope 'CROSSWORD' or 'PUZZLE'.

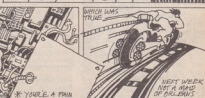
## CITIZEN PAIN

BY DAVID IRELAND and JAMES MACDONALD

MARK AND WENDY PAIN DO NOT UNDERSTAND HUM



IF YOU (JAMES, DAVID) - I'M VERY SURE - IT IS TRULY TRUE, I'LL BE YOURS, S.I. BIER, WE SERVE SALLY W...



# MORE FUN WITH YOUR ZX81!



The addition of our fully-compatible,  
assembled, tested and guaranteed

## 16K RAM PACK

**PUSH-ON PLUG-COMPATIBLE MEMORY**

Means more memory for better games  
and bigger programs

**ORDER YOURS TODAY FROM:**

**CAPS LTD. Dept. E, 28 The Spain, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3LA**

Please send me my Byg Byte 16K Ram Pack. I enclose cheque/  
postal order for £34.95 (includes VAT, Postage & Packing)

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Dept. E

*Allow 28 days for delivery*

Fully inclusive price

# £34.95

SEE VIC AT THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMODORE COMPUTER SHOW  
CUNARD HOTEL, HAMMERSMITH,  
3rd-5th JUNE.  
3rd June 12 noon-6pm 4th June 10am-6pm  
5th June 10am-5pm



# "Give me one good reason why I should choose a VIC 20 home computer."

1. VIC is outstanding value for money. No other colour home computer can give so much for under £200.

2. Total standard memory 25K made up of 20K ROM and 5K RAM.

3. Fully expandable to 271K user RAM.

4. Microsoft Basic interpreter as standard.

5. Accessible machine language via plug-in cartridges.

6. Connects direct to monitor or standard television.

7. Full size typewriter style keyboard.

8. Full colour and sound.

9. All colours easily accessible.

10. 62 predefined graphic characters direct from the keyboard.

11. Full set of upper and lower case characters.

12. 256 displayable characters direct from the keyboard.

13. High resolution graphics capability via plug-in cartridges.

14. Programmable function keys can be used with plug-in cartridges.

15. Automatic repeat on cursor function keys.

16. User-definable input/output port.

17. Machine bus port for memory expansion and ROM software.

18. Standard interfaces for hardware peripherals.

19. VIC 20 is truly expandable into a highly sophisticated computer system with a comprehensive list of accessories (see panel below).

20. Full range of software for home, education, business and entertainment on disk, cassette and cartridge.

21. Books, manuals and learning aids from Teach Yourself Basic to the VIC programmers' reference guide (a must for advanced programmers).

22. Full support for VIC owners - their own magazine 'VIC Computing' as well as a national network of VIC user groups.

23. National dealer network providing full service and support to VIC owners.

24. Expertise and experience - Commodore are world leaders in microcomputer and silicon chip technology.

25. Commodore is the leading supplier of micro computers in the UK to business, schools, industry and the home.

26. VIC 20 is the best-selling colour home computer in the UK.

How many reasons was it you wanted?

#### Accessories include:

- Cassette tape unit.
- Single drive 5 1/4" floppy disk unit (170 K bytes capacity).
- 80-column dot matrix printer.
- 38, 8K and 16K RAM expansion cartridges.
- Programming aid packs; machine code monitor cartridge; programmers' aid cartridge; high resolution graphics cartridge.

- Plug-in conversion box for a full 32K, 40-column x 24 lines VIC including Prestel compatibility.
- RS 232C communication cartridge.
- Memory expansion board.
- IEEE488 interface cartridge.
- Joysticks, light pens, paddles and more controllers.

 **commodore**

## VIC 20

**The best home computer in the world.**

